

session of Congress a repeal of the aforesaid unconstitutional and obnoxious acts."

The changes in the resolutions were made in the spirit of Jefferson's ideas after a month of reflection. In November, 1798, he enclosed to Madison the resolutions as he had drawn them, and wrote: "I think we should distinctly affirm all the important principles they contain, so as *to*-hold the ground in future and leave the matter in such a train as that we may not be committed absolutely to* push the matter to extremities and yet may be free to push as far as events will render prudent." This note had reference to the approaching action of the Virginia Legislature upon the same matter. The resolutions offered in this body by Jefferson's friend, John Taylor of Carolina, were more cautiously worded. Madison was their author.

The effect of these two sets of resolutions upon the country at large must have been a source of great disappointment to their authors and promoters. Most of the States took no official notice of them. Those which did notice them did not commit themselves to an approval. But Jefferson was for keeping them to the front. In August, 1799, he wrote to Wilson C. Nicholas: "I am deeply impressed with the importance of Virginia and Kentucky pursuing the same track at the ensuing session of their legislatures. Your going thither furnishes a valuable opportunity of effecting it, and as Mr. Madison will be at our Assembly, as well as yourself, I thought it important to procure a meeting between you/' And again, in September, he wrote to the same person: "I thought something essentially necessary to be said in order to avoid the influence of acquiescence; that a resolution or declaration should be passed, answering the reasonings of such of the States as have ventured into the field of reason and that of the committee of Congress; taking some notice, too, of those States who have either not answered at all, or answered without reasoning. * * * Expressing in affectionate and conciliatory language our warm attachment to union with our sister States and to the instrument and principles by which we are